

Prepared for
Department of the Army
US Army Garrison Fort Belvoir

in accordance with
Army Regulation 200-2

pursuant to
National Environmental
Policy Act Section 102(2)(C)



Environmental Assessment

Construction of T Block and Structured Parking at Defense Communications Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity Fort Belvoir, Virginia

July 2002

Abstract

This Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies and evaluates the potential effects of building a new administrative/office and computer facility – T Block – and associated parking structure at the Defense Communications Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity (Defense CEETA) complex at Fort Belvoir. The building would be constructed on the existing Utility Building Parking Lot and the parking structure on the existing West Parking Lot. The additional work space provided by T Block would accommodate approximately 250 new employees. The purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide a work place for the additional employees needed to support critical operations. The EA assesses two alternatives: No Action and the Proposed Action. No significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.

Please contact the following person with comments and questions:

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

US ARMY GARRISON FORT BELVOIR

Construction of T Block and Structural Parking

at

Defense Communications

Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity

Fort Belvoir, Virginia

July 2002

Reviewed by:



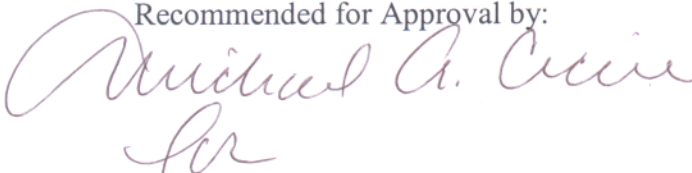
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Finding of No Significant Impact

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir
Directorate of Installation Support
Construction of T Block and Structured Parking at
Defense Communications Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

- 1.0 Name of Action:** Build an addition – T-Block – to the existing complex and associated structured parking at Defense Communications Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity (Defense CEETA) on Fort Belvoir.
- 2.0 Description of Proposed Action:** Under the proposed action, Fort Belvoir would accommodate the construction of a new administrative/office and computer building – T Block – at the Defense CEETA complex in Fort Belvoir. The building would be constructed in the existing Utility Building Parking Lot. The additional work space provided by T Block would accommodate approximately 250 new employees. The proposed action also includes the construction of a new parking structure in the existing West Parking Lot. Construction of both T Block and the parking structure would begin in October 2002, and would be completed in Spring 2004. The new employees would begin to occupy T Block in Fall 2004.
- 3.0 Project Alternatives:** The No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative were evaluated.
- 4.0 Environmental Consequences:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) determined that implementation of the proposed action would have no impacts on land use; Environmental Justice communities or children populations; noise levels; infrastructure; cultural resources; natural resources; or hazardous substances. Nor would it have an adverse impact on traffic as measured by its impact on 8 intersections in and around Fort Belvoir. The proposed alternative would not result in exceedence of the *de minimis* criteria of 50 tons per year of volatile organic compounds or nitrogen oxides. Therefore, a conformity analysis was not required. The addition of 250 new employees to the Defense CEETA workforce would have no adverse impacts on socioeconomic conditions in the area or on community facilities and services. Best management practices would be used during construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation.
- 5.0 Conclusions:** On reviewing the environmental assessment and other project information, the Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir has concluded that the proposed action would not significantly adversely affect the quality of the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Notice of Availability: The Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the Directorate of Installation Support, Fort Belvoir, Virginia and at John Marshall, Lorton, and

Public Notice July 25, 2002

Sherwood Hall branches of the Fairfax County Public Libraries. A copy of this notice and the Environmental Assessment can be viewed on the World Wide Web at www.belvoir.army.mil.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of this notice to **Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 107, ATTN: ANFB-ELE, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5130**. E-mail comments will be accepted at environmental@belvoir.army.mil. The proposed action will not be implemented before this date. For more information, contact Mr. Patrick M. McLaughlin at (703) 806-4007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fort Belvoir is proposing to accommodate the construction of a new administrative/office and computer building – T Block – at the Defense Communications Electronics Evaluation and Testing Activity (Defense CEETA) complex in Fort Belvoir. The building would be constructed in the existing Utility Building (UTB) Parking Lot. The additional work space provided by T Block would accommodate approximately 250 new employees. The Proposed Action also includes the construction of a new parking structure in the existing West Parking Lot.

Construction of both T Block and the parking structure would begin in October 2002, and would be completed in Spring 2004. The new employees would begin to occupy T Block in Fall 2004.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the impacts of the construction of T Block and associated parking structure, together with the increase in personnel. It has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500-1508, and Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, “Environmental Effects of Army Actions” at 32 CFR Part 651.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of constructing T Block is to provide a building and its associated facilities to house operations critical to Defense CEETA’s mission, and to provide a work place for the additional employees needed to support those operations. Current facilities within the fenced, restricted Defense CEETA complex are inadequate for accommodation of scheduled projects.

The purpose of the parking structure is to provide parking for the vehicles of the new Defense CEETA employees, and to replace parking stalls that would be removed to accommodate construction of T Block and the new parking structure.

Alternatives Assessed in the EA

The EA assesses two alternatives: No Action and the Proposed Action. Because Defense CEETA already employs a large workforce at its facility on Fort Belvoir, consideration of site alternatives was restricted to this facility. The proposed action was sited so as to be least disruptive since both T Block and the parking structure would be constructed on paved parking lots, the only demolition required would be the removal of trailers, all required utilities would be available in the immediate vicinity, and only minimal grading and excavation would be necessary.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no impacts on land use and master plans; Environmental Justice communities or children populations; noise levels; infrastructure; cultural resources; natural resources; or hazardous substances.

The addition of 250 employees to the Defense CEETA workforce would amount to an increase of approximately 1.2 percent in the Fort Belvoir workforce, and, at the very most, 0.015 percent in the regional population. This would not have any noticeable effects on the demography of the area, or on community facilities and services.

The addition of 250 employees to the Defense CEETA workforce would result in an additional 45 vehicular trips to and from the site in the morning peak, and 37 trips in the afternoon. This would not significantly worsen the levels of service at nearby intersections. The intersection of Fairfax County Parkway and John J. Kingman Road is currently operating over capacity, and would continue to do so under the Proposed Action Alternative.

The slight increase in traffic that would result from the Proposed Action would not lead to any violations of either the one-hour or the 8-hour CO emission standard. Because the new building would be heated using wastewater generated from the cooling towers in the existing power plant, no new stationary air emission source would be created by the proposed action. A General Conformity Rule analysis was conducted and showed that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in annual emission values exceeding the applicable *de minimis* criteria for nitrogen oxide (NO_x) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Thus no formal conformity determination is needed. The increase in annual emissions would not make up ten percent or more of the available regional emission inventory for NO_x or VOCs, and thus would not be regionally significant.

Because the new facilities would be built on areas that are already paved, the Proposed Action would not increase the amount of impermeable surface at the site, and thus would have no impacts on stormwater runoff. While construction of T Block and associated parking structure would involve land-disturbing activities, short-term best management practices would be used to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Because the disturbed area would cover less than five acres (two hectares), no Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit would be needed.